



ITC ARABICUM PROFILE

We grow and outsource our **Arabicum flowers** from ITC verified small and large scale farmers whose farming and handling of product meets the required International Standards.

Our logistics team moves it to our client's doorstep in the UK, Europe and the Middle East.

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INTERSTATE TRADE COMPANY LIMITED

A ARABICUM **F** ARMING

Introduction

Arabicum is an annual flower used in fresh bouquets, usually grown from bulbs. The foliage and the stem of this cut flower originate from the bulb. Several leaves are produced before inflorescence is initiated. Only one stem is produced by each bulb.



This annual flower is gaining popularity among small scale farmers because they are easy to grow and they yield higher returns to farmers.

Efficiency and Quality is our Definition

VARIETIES

They are two main varieties of Arabicum grown on our farm.

- **Adenium Arabicum**
- **Ornithogalum Arabicum**

Adenium Arabicum

It's commonly cultivated for its leaves, growth form and flowering characteristics. The leaves have a broad surface which tends to be large and leathery in appearance.



Ornithogalum Arabicum

It is a bulbous perennial boasting luminous raceme of up to 15 sweet scented, star shaped, white or creamy-white flowers.



PLANTING

We plant Arabicum in a deep fertile well drained soil with a slightly acidic to neutral PH. Arabicum requires a growing temperature of 22-28 degrees.



ITC workers planting Arabicum flowers

Before planting the bulb-lets are sun-cured by spreading them in the sun for 7-9 weeks. During planting: the crop is grown either from seed or bulbs. The bulbs are planted in raised beds made from well ploughed land raised 10-15cm highland 1m wide and with 50cm paths.



The bulbs are set with the roots facing downwards and immediately after planting the bulbs are irrigated to ensure rapid sprouting.

CARE PRACTICES

- **IRRIGATION**

Arabicum requires a lot of water for quality flowers since during growing season, the new bulbs forms leaves and stems extend. The roots from the original bulb anchor the plants and provide water and nutrients.



- **FERTILIZER APPLICATION**

The type and rate of fertilizer we use depends on inherent soil fertility prior to planting.



- **LIFTING**

After harvesting the flowers, the roots die back, when foliage has died back, the bulbs are lifted carefully and prepared for storage.

HARVESTING

Harvesting is done 3-4 months after planting. Arabicum starts to produce a stout flower stem with 8-12 scented white flowers with black centers. The flower stem is cut at the base, when 2-3 flowers on the stem are showing a white flush and are fully opened. They are immersed in cold water and moved out of the sun as soon as possible.



ITC worker harvesting

Harvesting is a labor-intensive exercise which does not end until the stems are graded. During harvesting we ensure quality control of the flowers, for example, ensuring workers have short nails to avoid scratching the flowers and they use a knife to check presence of any pest etc.



Arabicum flowers after harvesting

PACKAGING

We pack *Arabicum* flowers in cartons in single or bunched spikes. We wrap the blooms in polythene sleeves that reduce moisture loss.



After inserting the bunched stems into the box, we partition them with soft wax paper to maintain a bruise-free travelling environment.



We label each consignment with the name, source and the number of stems per box.

SORTING AND GRADING

Arabicum flowers are graded according to length. Longer stems with blooms which are well developed are the best quality. They are graded into 3 grades;

Grade 1-70cm long.

Grade 2-50cm long.

Grade 3-40cm long.



Grading is also done through weeding out those attacked by pests and removing any withered bracts, cut into uniform sizes, tied together in bundles of 10 and packaged in specially designed cartons ready for transportation to the market.



STORAGE



ITC flower boxes



Forklift palletizing ITC flowers



STORAGE

Bulbs are stored during off season by placing them in a paper bag of cardboard box. Lid is removed from the container so the bulbs can breathe. The container is then placed in a cool dark dry place, to prevent them from growing.



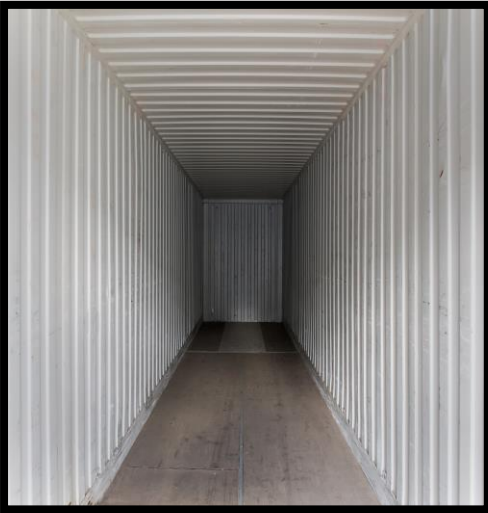
We store Arabicum flowers at temperatures above 7 degrees Celsius to maintain a cool, dry environment for freshness and moisture retention throughout the storage duration.



ITC storage cold room

TRANSPORT BY ROAD

We transport the cargo on the same day of packing via our refrigerated vehicles to the airport.



Refrigerated truck before being loaded

The consignment will be ready for arrival in your destination in a day or two after dispatch.



ITC truck delivering flowers

EXPORT BY AIR

We export our flowers all over the world by means of air.
Due to their perishability, we ensure that our clients get them on time.



ITC flowers cargo being loaded in a plane.



ITC flowers for export at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport.



STANDARDS

ITC Arabicum flowers have met the required international set standards which include;

- ✓ Uniform stem length, strength and straightness
- ✓ Freedom from pests
- ✓ Freshness
- ✓ Color
- ✓ Cold chain maintained from farm to shelf life



ACCREDITATION

All our products are inspected and certified by all relevant bodies which includes Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Society (KEPHIS) and GLOBAL G.A.P to ensure they are free from pest and diseases and are qualified for the international market.



Helping communities to build a better future

